



## Perspective of the farmers about ICT in agriculture

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**Abstract :** The objective of the study was to know the expectations of the farmers regarding Community Internet Center at village level for sustainable agricultural development. Most of the respondents was expected the Community Internet Center (CIC) facilities at Panchayat office of the village. They were also expecting six sets of computer with agriculture graduate having computer knowledge as operator at CIC. They expect that Government should bear expenses to run CIC. The information on farmers' related sites was expected by most of the farmers in Gujarati language that too in the audio-visual form. The major purposes to have CIC explained by the respondents were to collect agricultural information, to collect information on government's programmes, and to know more about market prices. Majority of the respondents expressed their desire to use Internet daily or twice in a week by their own. All of them expressed positive response to have proper training about the use of Internet facility through government agency, at CIC.

**Key Words :** Community Internet Center, ICT in agriculture

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### INTRODUCTION

The major segments of our population are being lived in rural areas. Hence, quick dissemination of technology information from the agricultural research system to the farmers in the field and reporting of farmers feedback to the research system are the critical inputs in transfer of agriculture technology. To disseminate the required and recent agricultural information to the farmers in scattered villages at the variegated geographical situation in India is very difficult task. Transfer of technology to the level of farmers is not a onetime exercise because new farm technology is being constantly evolved. A continuous flow of technologies in an appropriate manner is vital to provide quick benefit of this development to the farmers. There has been a technological explosion in the field of agriculture. This demands that the farmer has to know all aspects of technology prior to its adoption. It can only be possible through the use of satellite based Internet technologies.

The number of satellite based Internet connection in Indian has crossed the two million mark and the number of telephone connections is over 320 million. Internet connectivity has touched almost all the districts in the country

and is moving down up to the village levels (Aditya, 2003). Many pilot projects to connect rural community to cyberspace are underway at various locations. The initial response of the rural people, particularly farmers has been very encouraging; many organizations are trying to establish internet connectivity to make best use to satellite based communication technology. Keeping all the things in mind the present study has been undertaken with a view to know the expectations of the farmers regarding Community Internet Centre (CIC) at village level.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The investigation was carried out in Anand district of Gujarat state because the district is agriculturally one of the more advanced districts. Farmers having good interaction with their relatives in foreign countries. Four villages viz., Vasad, Mogar, Napad and Navli having more than 5000 population and comparatively sound infrastructure facilities were selected purposively. A list of progressive farmers was prepared with the help of village level worker from all the selected villages. Finally, 25 farmers were selected from each villages using simple random